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ROYSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1958

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ROYSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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1958

Councillor H. A. Stearn, J.P., Ph.C., M.P.S.,
Chairman of the Public Health Committee

Dr. V. R. Walker, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.,
District Medical Officer of Health

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ROYSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1958 - 1959

COUNCILLORS:

H. G. HADDOCK, J.P.
Chairman of the Council

LADY JOAN NEWMAN
Vice-Chairman of the Council

A. L. Cain, A.I.E.E.

R. H. C. Clark, C.C.

Miss J. P. Etheridge

R. J. Gavin

P. L. Jacklin

W. S. Keatley

P. F. Sewell

F. J. Smith

H. A. Stearn, J.P., Ph.C., M.P.S.

R. L. Wilkerson

OFFICERS:

Dr. V. R. WALKER, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.,
District Medical Officer of Health

S. M. JACKSON, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.H.,
Surveyor and Senior Public Health Inspector

E. R. SWIFT, S.I.E.J.B.,
Additional Public Health Inspector

D. J. WALKER,
Clerk of the Council

P. S. WORTH,
Treasurer

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To the Chairman and Members of the
Royston Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 22/58, I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1958.

This year the local birth rate (16.4) exactly equals that for England and Wales (16.4).

The local death rate (11.1) was this year below the National rate (11.7). The local still-birth and infant mortality rates are seen to approximate closely to the National rates for the year.

There was no infectious outbreak during the year apart from widespread measles starting in December and going well into 1959.

I would acknowledge the assistance in the preparation of this Report from Mr.S.M.Jackson, your Surveyor and Public Health Inspector, who is responsible for the sections on sanitary matters. Also I would like to thank your Council and its Chief Officers for every consideration during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

VICTOR R. WALKER

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1959.

SECTION A LOCAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	1,626
Home Population - Registrar General's Estimate for mid-1958	5,500
Number of inhabited houses at 1st April, 1959 (estimated)..	1,750
Rateable Value (1st April, 1959)	£73,726
Sum represented by Penny Rate (31st March, 1959) (estimated)	£273.10.-d.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1958

		Totals	Male	Female	Royston Urban District	Comparable rate for England and Wales
LIVE BIRTHS	(Legitimate	89	50	39		
	(Illegitimate	1	-	1		
	(All	90	50	40		
Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population					16.4	16.4
		Totals	Male	Female		
STILLBIRTHS	(Legitimate	2	1	1		
	(Illegitimate	-	-	-		
	(All	2	1	1		
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births					21.7	21.6
		Totals	Male	Female		
TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS		92	51	41		
		Totals	Male	Female		
DEATHS		61	31	30		
Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population					11.1	11.7
		Totals	Male	Female		
INFANT DEATHS	(Under 4 weeks	1	1	-		
	(Over 4 weeks under 1 year	1	1	-		
	(All	2	2	-		
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births (total)					22.2	22.5
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births (legitimate)				22.5		
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births (illegitimate)				Nil		
Neo Natal (first 4 weeks) mortality rate per 1,000 live births					11.1	16.2
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births				1.1		
No. of maternal deaths (including abortion)				Nil		
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births					Nil	0.43

Deaths from Cancer (all sites)	12
Deaths from Measles	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough	Nil
Deaths from other infective and parasitic diseases	1

Comment on Vital Statistics

Estimated mid-year home population again shows a considerable increase (480) on the figure for the previous year. Live Births (90) were 15 more and local deaths (61) 3 less than for 1957.

SECTION B

Provision of Health Services for the Area

No important change took place during the year.

SECTION C SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

The whole of the district, with the exception of 8 houses and a small light engineering works in the Eagle Tavern Area, and the Hall, Farm and Cottages on the Burloes Estate, is supplied with water from the chalk, by the Royston Water Company Ltd., by a piped supply of excellent quality. The houses at Burloes are supplied by a private piped supply, also of excellent quality.

Again, as in previous years, water was carted to the premises in the Eagle Tavern area during dry spells.

With the exception of the houses mentioned above, all the other houses in the district are supplied with water direct from the mains to the houses.

Bacteriological and chemical examinations were made during the year and analysis shows the water to be in a satisfactory chemical and bacteriological condition and suitable for drinking.

The supply to domestic and other premises was maintained throughout the year.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Nineteen new houses built by private enterprise, and seventy-four new houses built by the Council were connected to the sewage system during the year.

Refuse Removal and Disposal

The cost of refuse removal and disposal for the year amounted to £2,866.

In the middle of the year the Council took delivery of an 18 cubic yard fore and aft tipping vehicle for refuse collection in order to cope with the increase in refuse and maintain a once weekly collection throughout the district.

Maintenance of the refuse tip was continued and advantage was taken to seal the tipping area whenever covering material was available. Treatment by spraying with insecticide was carried out to prevent the breeding of flies.

It was necessary to excavate to the piped portion of the ditch under the tip to expose broken and blocked pipes and to clear and relay with new concrete pipes.

Regular baiting and poisoning treatments against rat infestation was carried out during the year.

Rodent Control

At the end of March, 1958, the Council withdrew from the Joint Pest Control Scheme with the Hitchin and Welwyn Rural District Councils, and on the 1st April commenced their own scheme, employing one of their workmen part time and providing the necessary equipment and materials.

That scheme has worked satisfactorily, and the following work was carried out during the nine months of its operation:-

Total number of private premises treated	- 48
Total number of local authority premises treated, including tip	- 6
Total number of business premises treated	- 4
Total number of sewer maintenance treatments	- 2

The total number of inspections made by Officers of the Public Health Department and the Operator during the year was 324, including 5 inspections of agricultural land and 6 block inspections.

Sanitary Inspections of the Area

The details below show the number of inspections made during the year:-

Under the Housing Acts	92
Under the Public Health Acts	231
Under the Factory Acts	45
Prevention of Infectious Diseases	16
Milk and Dairies Orders	8
Food Shops and Stores	152
Bakehouse Inspections	12
Prevention of Nuisances	154
House Drainage	24

Supervision of Refuse Collection and Disposal	151
Rats and Mice Destruction	324
Caravans and Moveable Dwellings	16
Miscellaneous Inspections	104

Details resulting from the above inspections are as follows:-

Statutory Notices served	4
Informal Notices served	151
Notices complied with	153
Houses demolished	10
Houses rendered fit as a result of formal action	4
Houses rendered fit as a result of informal action	71
Houses roofs renewed or repaired	19
House windows repaired	23
House chimneys repaired	6
House floors renewed or repaired	24
House ceilings renewed or repaired	32
House walls (external) repaired or plastered	16
House eaves gutters renewed or repaired	54
Internal wall plaster repaired	38
House drains relaid or repaired	184 yds.
Gullies fixed	10
Intercepting traps fixed	4
New sinks fixed	16
Sinks renewed or repaired	5
Sink waste pipes renewed or repaired	19
W.C. roofs repaired	16
W.C. pans renewed or repaired	15
W.C. cisterns renewed or repaired	49
New baths fixed	2
Inspection chambers built	12
Inspection chambers repaired	4
New vent shafts fixed	4
New F.A.I. fixed	12
Water Service pipes repaired	72
Dampness remedied	21
Cooking ranges renewed or repaired	24
Hot Water systems renewed or repaired	1
Staircases repaired	9
Blocked drains cleared and cleansed	52
Accumulations of rubbish removed	37
Houses disinfected	4
Bakehouse floors cleansed	2
Dairies cleansed and limewashed	2
Bakehouse ceilings cleansed	2
Sanitary conveniences at Factories repaired	4
Sanitary conveniences at Factories cleansed	4
Sanitary conveniences provided at Building Sites	4

Building Byelaws and Town and Country Planning

Plans and applications submitted	94
Plans and applications withdrawn	4
Plans and applications approved	74
Plans and applications disapproved	8
Plans and applications decision pending	8
Approved for new estates and houses	15
Approved for other buildings	40
Approved for change of user	8
Approved for advertisement signs	3
Approved for use of land and for layouts	8
New houses completed:-	
By local authority under Housing Acts	74
By private enterprise	19
Other buildings completed	36
Drains laid to above	3,945 yds.
Gullies laid to above	261
Connections to sewer	42
Vent shafts fixed	124
Inspection of chambers built	132
Water closets fixed	112
Intercepting traps fixed	44
Baths fixed	94
Sinks fixed	102
Lavatory basins fixed	134
Dustbins provided	126

SECTION D

Housing

During the year 74 new traditional brick houses were built by the Council and became occupied. Of these, 12 were of the one bedroom type, 22 of the 2 bedroom type and 40 of the 3 bedroom type.

Nineteen new dwellings were erected by private enterprise.

No requisitioned property is held by the Council.

The number of properties for which Improvement Grants were approved during the year was 1. The amount of the Grant was £169.

Slum Clearance Programme

Houses in Slum Clearance Areas were inspected and information laid before the Council in respect of the following:-

Nos. 2 and 4 Sun Hill
Nos. 2, 4, 6 and 8 Barkway Street
Nos. 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9 Wicker Hall
No. 12 Melbourn Street
Nos. 11 and 13 Market Hill
Nos. 4, 6, 8 and 10 The Warren
Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 The Mount
Nos. 1/2 and 3/4 Garden Lane
Nos. 5, 6 and 7 Fish Hill

Demolition Orders were made in respect of Nos. 2 and 4 Sun Hill, Nos. 2, 4, 6 and 8 Barkway Street, Nos. 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9 Wicker Hall, Nos. 11 and 13 Market Hill, No. 1/2 Garden Lane and Nos. 5, 6 and 7 Fish Hill.

A Closing Order was made on No. 12 Melbourn Street.

Consideration was being given to the reports on the remainder of the above properties at the end of the year. Inspections of further properties were also made towards the end of the year and consideration of these was pending.

The nine houses in Clearance Area No. 9 (Nos. 11, 13, 15 and 17 Barkway Street and Nos. 1/3, 5, 7, 9 and 11 The Warren) were demolished.

No. 8 Baldock Street, a house owned by the Council, was demolished to extend the Baldock Street Car Park.

During the year, 13 families were rehoused from Clearance Areas and houses under Demolition Orders. The total number of persons displaced was 27.

Rent Act, 1957

Two Certificates of Disrepair were issued in respect of Nos. 19 and 21 Green Street and the repairs subsequently carried out by the landlord.

Undertakings were given by owners in respect of repairs required at No. 46 Green Street, No. 67 Queens Road, Nos. 17B and 17C Old North Road and No. 10 Market Hill, and the repairs listed on Form J were carried out without further action being necessary in these cases.

SECTION E INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Food Premises in the District

The food premises, mobile food vendors, and stalls selling foodstuffs are classified according to the type in the following list. The total number given will exceed the actual number of premises as many sell various classes of foodstuffs.

	Shops	Mobile Shops	Stalls
Butchers	6		
Grocers	18	2	1
Greengrocers	5	1	5
Wet Fish	3		1
Cafes	4		

	Shops	Mobile Shops	Stalls
Dealers in Sweets	21		1
Dealers in Cakes	6	1	2
Dealers in Bread	3	1	
Beer etc. (Off Licence)	1		
Wines and Spirits etc. (Off Licence)	2		
Public Houses	13		

Premises Registered under Section 16 Food and Drugs Act, 1955

There are 15 Ice Cream premises, together with 3 selling from vans not subject to registration in this District.

Fish fryers 4, with 2 vehicles acting as mobile fried fish shops not subject to registration in this area.

There is also a factory in this District where sweets are manufactured. This is a branch works of Messrs. Barratt & Company Ltd. of Wood Green, London.

Dairies (Registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949-54)

There are four milk producers in the District, two of whom are licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for the production of Tuberculin Tested Milk.

There are two retail purveyors of milk in the District.

Periodic inspections of dairies were made during the year.

The Council's area is part of the Specified Areas Scheme which requires that only milk of Tuberculin Tested or Pasteurised types should be offered for sale.

Two Dealer's Licences were issued in respect of the sale of designated milks and three Supplementary Licences were issued for the retailing of designated milks in the District from premises situated outside the Urban Area.

Inspections of Registered Food Premises

During the year 172 inspections were made to the premises enumerated above, and to other food premises etc., 532 visits were made. In the case of the registered premises, there is nothing worthy of comment, all the premises being of a good standard and well maintained.

Educational activity in connection with Foods

There have been no activities such as Lectures, Clean Food Guilds and so on, but in a small community such as this there is a close personal approach between the Officers and the food handlers, and a good deal of informal advise and instruction has resulted in a steady all-round improvement in protection of food in storage, display and general handling.

Meat

There are no slaughterhouses in the District and no slaughtering of animals was carried on in the District during the year.

Meat in butchers shops and fish in fishmongers, has been inspected during the year.

Other Foods

Other food shops were visited and the following were found to be unfit for human consumption on examination and were surrendered and destroyed:-

Ham	40 lbs. 11 oz.
Sugar	56 lbs.
New Potatoes	224 lbs.

Tinned and Packaged Food

Luncheon Meat	2 lbs.	4 oz.	(3 tins)
Corned Beef	30 lbs.		(8 tins)
Chopped Pork	4 lbs.		(1 tin)
Stewed Steak	2 lbs.		(4 tins)
Veal	18 lbs.		(3 tins)
Meat Loaf		12 oz.	(1 tin)
Pilchards	2 lbs.		(3 tins)
Crab		15 oz.	(2 tins)
Fruit Drops	4 doz. bags		
Fruit Lollies	2 doz. rolls		
Mint Chocolates	6 - $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. bags		

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955-56

The various requirements under these Regulations are gradually being enforced. Washbasins, sinks with hot and cold water, together with the necessary cloths, towels, soap, nail brushes, were in most cases provided in the preceding year, but in this town some of the premises being hundreds of years old do not lend themselves to the twentieth century standard of food hygiene. Consequently, some firms, faced with comprehensive alteration of premises, have been considering the acquisition of other premises, or with the entire or partial rebuilding of their present premises. A certain amount of delay is thereby occasioned, but the general picture is one of steady improvement.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks

No intimation of any occurrence of food poisoning was received during the year.

Green Plunge Swimming Pool

Samples of water were taken from the above and the results of analysis showed the water in the pool to be suitable for bathing purposes throughout the season during which the pool was open.

Factories Act, 1937 and 1948

The following table gives the information required by the Ministry of Labour and National Service in accordance with Form 572 (Revised).

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).

Premises	Number of			
	No. on Register	Inspec-tions	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
I. Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	9	-	-
II. Factories not included in (I) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority	34	26	-	-
III. Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding outworkers).	4	10	-	-
Total	44	45	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				
	Found	Remedied	Referred		Number of Prosecutions
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	4	4	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temp.	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate vent.	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	2	2	-	-	-
<u>Sanitary Conveniences</u>					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	4	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act	-	-	-	-	-
Total	10	10	-	-	-

SECTION F

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases

For the year 1958, the total notifications of acute infectious diseases (after correction) were: Measles 217; Acute Pneumonia 2; and Erysipelas 1.

The widespread epidemic of Measles occurred in the month of December and continued into early 1959. There was no report of any case complicated by Pneumonia.

Notification of Whooping Cough, as compared with Measles, has in the last few years become remarkably infrequent, suggesting such illness now reduced in severity to a marked degree. Although it is far reaching to claim such reduction to be wholly due to recent adoption of vaccination of infants against pertussis, the measure continued to be popularly accepted and valued by mothers. Also although immunisation procedures against both Diphtheria and Whooping Cough have tended to be overshadowed by the recently introduced vaccination against Poliomyelitis, there would seem no marked falling off in acceptance by mothers of infant age children.

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TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Deaths during the year 1958

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	- (1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	- (1)	- (1)	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	1 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	1 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Not known	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals:	2 (2)	- (1)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Deaths allocated by the Registrar General after final transfers					-	-	-	-

Foot Note: In addition to any new cases first notified within the District there is shown in brackets additional figures of cases transferred to the local register from other areas.

Comment: It is seen that only two notifications were received during the year in respect of locally domiciled persons, both middle aged males, and no death occurred from any form of tuberculosis.

VICTOR R. WALKER

District Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1959.

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